

Make Wishes Come True in Your Community

We all have wish lists. Come on, you know you do. I will admit out right that I have one. Still in my adult years, I make a wish when I blow out the candles on my birthday cake or toss a penny in the fountain. We have wishes for world peace, for our children to get along, to win American Idol or for Prince Charming to come and sweep us off of our feet. Some wishes are practical and some are fairy-tale like. We have little control over the far-fetched wishes, but as for the practical ones, we can help make them come true for others.

United Way of Gaston County's Partner agencies have wishes. Our agencies, that you help support, often don't have enough resources to accomplish everything that needs to get done. The economy has had a trickle down effect on us all. When people lose their jobs, they may find themselves needing assistance for food or utility bills or help purchasing medication. When the stock market is not doing well, foundations suffer and lose money that would normally be given to these agencies to help keep programs afloat. The demand for services rise, but the resources that agencies need to deliver services become lowered. Also, many people find that they just don't have any money to donate to these causes, like they may once have had. There are some things we can do besides give financially.

It's spring. And with spring comes the time to "spring clean". Do you have gently used items around the house and need a place to take them? Can you pick up an extra item or two when doing your weekly shopping? By doing so, we can grant wishes. Here are some of our agencies wish lists. Bessemer City Area Crisis Center needs saltine crackers, oatmeal, grits, cereal, small cans of juice, rice, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, toasters, microwave ovens, radios, children's toys, baby items, books, toiletries, cleaning products, diapers and laundry detergent. Cherryville Rescue Squad could use carpet for their volunteer residential quarters and industrial heaters for their truck bays. Flynn Fellowship Home would like DVD's (new or used). Salvation Army Center of Hope would like digital TV's, children's books, toiletries, magazines and lounge furniture (preferably vinyl) and the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club needs computers and furniture for their teen room.

A wise person once told me, "if you don't ask for it, you'll never get it." If you or someone you know can fulfill any of these requests, let us know by contacting United Way of Gaston County at (704) 864-4554. Also, for a full listing of our Partner agencies that we fund and to view wish lists, please visit our website at www.unitedwaygaston.org. Thank you for investing in great work that helps us support our friends, family and neighbors. Here's hoping that all of our wishes come true!